

9 L F & K D Q F H T O G R S R U W W R



May 2020

At the time of writing this report, Aotearoa New Zealand is in the first week of National Alert Level 2.

Responding to COVID-19 Risk Levels

Within the overall national framework and guidelines, specific guidelines apply to each risk level. The University will continue to follow guidelines applicable to the tertiary sector.

The Government lowered the National Alert Level from 4 to 3 on 28 April. The Incident Management Team (IMT) developed a depth implementation plan to guide how the University

- x \$334m for additional tertiary education enrolments to meet demand arising from an anticipated COVID19 economic downturn.
- x \$320m targeted investment support for free trades training for all agricultural industries including construction, manufacturing and vocational courses such as counselling.
- x Up to \$412m support for employers to retain and keep training their apprentices
- x \$19m for group training schemes to support apprentices
- x \$230m funding for Workforce Development Councils and \$46m for Regional Skills Leadership groups to begin to provide the crucial industry leadership to support the COVID 19 recovery through the provision of regional labour market disruption intelligence
- x \$141m to increase tertiary education tuition and training subsidies by 1.6% to maintain the quality of learning opportunities
- x \$16 million boost to Adult and Community Education
- x

tuition fees this year to employees who have or will be impacted by redundancies, suspensions or significantly reduced working hours

In another example of agility, after a casual enquiry from an acquaintance, the College of Engineering Dean, the College has rapidly developed a Fast Track towards joining the second year of a BE (Hons) or any other technical degree in Engineering and Science. The courses started on May in conjunction with CUP and treat the new students as a specific cohort with their own mentors and special catch-up maths courses. The College takes account of W X G previous engineering experience and not requiring a full complement of first year courses.

UC Strategy Implementation in a COVID-19 World

Turning to broader initiatives that support community understanding and engagement on key issues of contemporary interest, here are some examples of recent successes.

UC Law Professor Neil Boister appeared before the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee on Thursday 30 April (along with Kennedy Graham of the NZ Centre for Global Studies) to urge inclusion of the crime of aggression within a set of amendments to the International Crimes and Criminal Court Act 2000. This is a necessary step for New Zealand to ratify the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which puts aggression into the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

The Art of Science Competition closed on Friday 8 May with 149 entries from year 1 to year 13 students across New Zealand. Links to online learning resources have been shared with science teachers from across New Zealand. These include Backyard science videos and a Geography lecture on COVID-19 and transport.

On an alumni note, the TV series based on the book *The Luminaries* started screening on TV One recently. Eleanor Catton wrote the book while she was a writer in residence at UC. Another connection, Aotahi staff member Teena Henderson, who is a descendant of a whenua of Hokitika where the story is set, was a cultural consultant for the series and composed one of the waiata used in the series.

Education – Accessible, Flexible, Future-focused

UC is embarking on the journey to achieve its most ambitious goal: to stimulate and support academic development and innovation to become the best educator in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The events related to COVID-19 have challenged our education system. Term Two began on 20 April with all courses being taught online, and in the subsequent weeks many students have also completed online assessments. It is pleasing to note that the IT infrastructure and the Learning Management System (LMS) have managed the increased demands well, thanks to the hard work of IT Services and eLearning teams.

The recent drops in COVID-19 Alert Levels enabled a limited number of fieldwork and campus activities to resume following a well-managed request and approval process to ensure the safety of everyone involved. Students have been supported

As part of this suite of tools to support learning, ~~and~~ in response to the rapid shift ~~in~~, pulse surveys are being used. The pulse survey is a dynamic way of capturing feedback about the online

QuakeCoRE, hosted in the College of Engineering, has made it through to the second round. This is an existing UGhosted CoRE under Director Professor Brendon Bradley. The final 10 CoREs that are selected will be funded for eight years.

Staff in the HITLab have been successful in attracting the pre-Virtual Reality Conference at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Conference on Virtual Reality and 3D User Interfaces 2022. That will make Christchurch the first city in the southern hemisphere to host the gathering of over 400 virtual reality experts from around the globe.

Allied with COVID-19, R&I has responded to multiple requests including from MBIE, the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Children's Commissioner on aspects of the impact of COVID-19.

The business of securing research income has continued apace. To date for 2020, total awarded research value is \$26 million, which comprises 96 funded proposals. Over 170 proposals are also still under review and decision. Of the 108 Marsden ECs that UC put forward, 17 have been invited to submit full proposals, which represents a disappointing conversion rate of 16% for this round. In contrast as noted above, two of four UG-hosted CoRE proposals have made the nationwide shortlist of 15 proposals (from an initial 31 submitted proposals) and now progress to

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Postgraduate research development has also had an expected COVIDs. The wellbeing and continued progress of our doctoral cohort continue to be our prime focus as we respond to areas of need students identify re.89s

continuing resources at the next renewal time. Already, internationally other universities may have no option but to cancel resources as a consequence of COVID

The Library is using the COVID UHVS RQVH DQG LPS Strategy to manage its environment and delivery of resources for both teaching and research and modify its early plans WR RSHUDWLRQDOLVH 8 & ¶ V VWU D Waterbury is on the leading. V K L I The Library is engaging in discussions about data and new integrated ways to manage student engagement, including the greater use of Open Educational Resources (OERs) and their role in supporting online learning.

Many academic staff have featured nationally and internationally in conferences, media forums to share their research and experience. The following are some of the latest examples.

Staff and postgraduate students in the College of Education, Health and Human Development have been participating in the Cancelled Conference Conversations. This online forum was initiated and

levels and public compliance within those schools. In this way the public can see what changes do to both detected and silent case numbers. The Cabinet has also reviewed the simulator

A 2013 European Journal of Special Needs Education

Staff

After the Government's announcement that Aotearoa New Zealand would move to Alert Level 2, I spoke to staff via a Zoom webinar about our return to campus. I congratulated staff on their hard work to get us to this stage and thanked everyone for their dedication to teaching and research, and for continuing to provide and support high-quality student experience. I also discussed the university's financial position and the importance of proactively supporting the physical distancing, location tracing and safety plan initiatives to keep COVID out of UC when staff return to campus. Around 555 staff attended the webinar.

I also held an interactive Zoom meeting with staff about COVID-19 and there were about 90 participants.

A second Pulse survey was sent to staff covering the same areas as the last one so we can measure trends. The main focus is people's confidence in the university's safety plan. The results are being analysed at the time of writing.

After the government announcement advising a move to Level 2 an email was sent to all staff advising that the campus would open to staff and students on Thursday 14 May. It covered the key principles of our reopening and included information on the facilities opening dates and times, Halls, parking costs, and supporting students. A key message to staff is to stay home if they are unwell or if they have health vulnerabilities, and to return to the campus only after the safety plan for their area of operation has been approved and the protocols are in place.

Students

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Associate Professor Donald Matheson and Professor Natalia Chaban, working in collaboration with the College of Arts International Committee and assisted by a PACE intern Joseph Perry, designed and conducted a study of perceptions, attitudes and narratives of experiences among international postgraduate students in the College. The study followed the methodology of surveys of international students in 2019. A series of focus groups took place in summer 2020. A final report was presented to the International Committee and W K H & Readers in April and May 2020, and will inform future development of postgraduate programmes and support in the College.

Organisational Efficacy

Ensure the University's structures and systems empower those who work with them, are integrated and streamlined, promote a constructive culture, and have one focus on high-quality learning, teaching and research.

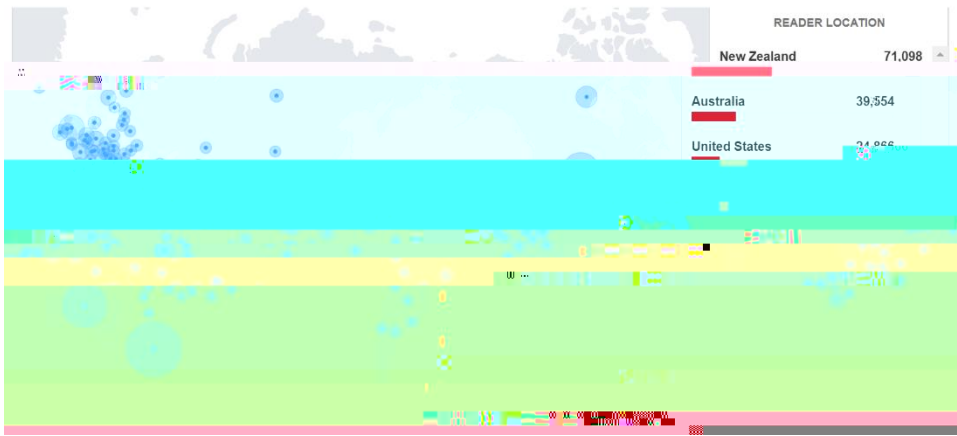
Domestic recruitment

As the secondary school term began online for the students we engage with, the Liaison team has regularly zoomed into schools and supported careers advisors with new online content. Preparations for online information evenings from 26 May to 11 June

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From 9 April to 11 May 2020 national online, print and broadcast media made 665 mentions of UC. Stories related to COVID-19 remained dominant in the media landscape which favoured expert opinions on pandemics and development of innovations that prove useful in the age of COVID-19. Other coverage related to new geological research on Whakaari (White Island), a groundbreaking astronomical discovery and new research showing how heavy cannabis use affects human genome. In addition to the positive media coverage UC generated, over 70 queries were handled over this period. The following UC news stories appeared in national media:

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- x Canterbury tech entrepreneur returns to help the SVA mobilise nationwide
- x HIT Lab N0 g 0 G [() TJ ET Q EMC /P <</MCID 2>> BDC q 0.000008871 0 595.32 841.92 r



During the past month I participated in a panel convened by the International Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (IASEM) Forum on Post-Secondary Response to COVID-19 and a podcast episode for the new Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) xChange series of conversations with global leaders around educational advancement. Both podcast series are listened to across the globe.

Environmentally Sustainable

Ensure UC research contributes to resolving global sustainability challenges.

One of the effects of the lockdown at Alert Levels 3 and 4 has been a marked reduction in air travel. Annual flying days have fallen from 55,000 to 14,000.

With travel expected to be minimal in 2020 we are actively encouraging people to find new ways of remote working nationally, building on our experience at Alert Levels 3 and 4.

VC's Activities

Past Events	
30 April 2020	x Attended Universities New Zealand meeting via Zoom
6 May 2020	x Met with Chief Executive of Ara, Tony Gray, via Zoom x Met with Partner of More Partners, Moss Cooper, via Zoom
7 May 2020	x Interviewed via Zoom by Martin Ince, Chair of the Global Academic Advisory Board, for QS article
7 May 2020	x Attended Christchurch Economic Recovery Forum meeting via Zoom x Attended Universities New Zealand meeting via Zoom x Attended UC Foundation Board of Trustees meeting via Zoom
12 May 2020	x Addressed UC staff members via Zoom
14 May 2020	x Interviewed by CASE xChange for a podcast series x Spoke at UC Admin Plus meeting via Zoom x Attended Universities New Zealand meeting via Zoom
15 May 2020	x Chaired Academic Board
26 May 2020	x Attended UC College of Arts Executive Team meeting

